

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT FLASH
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM FLASH
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS FLASH
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE

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EXDIS//JERUSALEM FOR AMBASSADOR LEWIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, UNSC, LE, SY, IS

SUBJECT: FIGHTING IN LEBANON

1. ACTION ADDRESSEES SHOULD INFORM HOST GOVERNMENTS IMMEDIATELY THAT THE U.S. PLANS TO CALL AN URGENT SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING ON LEBANON. THIS CALL WOULD BE BASED ON
(1) THE OVERRIDING HUMANITARIAN NEED TO STOP THE DYING IN

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BEIRUT AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, AND (2) THE NEED TO DEAL WITH THE THREAT TO PEACE IN THE WIDER MIDDLE EAST CONTEXT CAUSED BY THE ESCALATING SITUATION. WE ARE CONCERNED THAT MISCALCULATIONS AND MISUNDERSTANDINGS IN VARIOUS QUARTERS COULD LEAD TO BROADER HOSTILITIES OR WAR.

2. FOR CHARGE PELLETREAU: IF YOU HAVE ALREADY MADE YOUR

DEMARCHE TO SYRIANS BEFORE RECEIVING ADDED INSTRUCTIONS
IN SEPTTEL, YOU SHOULD GET BACK IN TOUCH IMMEDIATELY WITH
SYRIANS TO EXPLAIN OUR INTENTION TO CALL FOR SECURITY
COUNCIL MEETING.

3. FOR AMBASSADOR LEWIS: IN CONVEYING THE FOREGOING, YOU
CAN ALSO DRAW ON OUR ADDED INSTRUCTIONS TO DAMASCUS TO MAKE
CLEAR THAT WE ARE PRESSING THE SYRIANS HARD FOR AN IMMEDIATE
CEASEFIRE. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT ISRAEL EXERCISE EVERY
RESTRAINT AT THIS JUNCTURE.

4. FOR BEIRUT: LEBANESE OPPOSITION TO A SECURITY COUNCIL
MEETING COULD UNDERMINE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF WHAT WE ARE
TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH. THEREFORE, YOU SHOULD DO YOUR BEST
TO ENLIST A POSITIVE RESPONSE FROM SARKIS OR BOUTROS TO
OUR PLANS TO SEEK AN SC MEETING. WE WILL NEED, OF COURSE,
A FULL DESCRIPTION OF LEBANON'S REACTION TO THIS PLAN SO
THAT WE CAN DEVELOP OUR OWN TACTICS. WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT
AMBASSADOR PARKER CAN GET IN TOUCH WITH SARKIS AND
BOUTROS. WE ALSO HOPE HE COULD GET IN TOUCH WITH TUEINI
AND EXPLAIN WHAT WE ARE PLANNING TO DO. IF AMBASSADOR
PARKER CANNOT REACH TUEINI THEN LANE SHOULD TRY TO DO SO.
AMBASSADOR PARKER SHOULD SEIZE OCCASION TO CONVEY OUR
RELIEF AND APPRECIATION THAT SARKIS HAS DECIDED NOT TO
MOVE TO RESIGNATION RIGHT AWAY.

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5. INFO ADDRESSEES SHOULD NOT INFORM HOST GOVERNMENTS OF
OUR PLANS UNTIL INSTRUCTED SPECIFICALLY. VANCE

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